[7th March 1955

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Is it within the competence of the department to ask persons to deposit their money in particular banks against their own discretion? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" It is only an administrative directive."

P.C.C. Societies, Malabar

* 1147 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state the amount so far collected by the Government ' as interest ' from Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, Limited, Malabar, and the amount, if any, paid to such societies ' as interest ' on claims made on the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The amount of interest collected from the Producers'*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar district is Rs. 21,94,550. No interest was, paid to the societies by the Government on the claims of the societies, as it is not the practice to do so in Civil Supplies transactions."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Has not many of the societies preferred complaints to the Government that the so-called interest collected were not strictly in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Government? If so, may I know, whether the Government have looked into them? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, wherever complaints have been preferred, they have been examined and the Government have taken decisions and informed the societies also of their decisions. I may tell the hon. Member that interest is charged only for the monies not paid in advance as the cost of the grains and up to the period of three months only."

9-20 a.m. SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Many of the P.C.C. Societies in Malabar were compelled to take enormous stocks from the Government godowns without regard to the need of the societies. In view of this compulsory forcing of stocks on them will the Government see that interest is not collected on the amounts due to the Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know whether these societies were compelled to take the stocks. The Co-operative Societies are there for the purpose of taking over stocks and selling them to the people. Therefore, the question of remitting interest due for the moneys not paid for the last three months, does not arise."

Appointment of District Munsifs

* 1148 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any recruitment of District Munsifs recently; and